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election to the Council and he came to the Council rather late in his life after having had a successful career at the criminal bar. It is a pity that he has been snatched away in the prime of life when his work in the Council might have been useful to the constituency which had elected him."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, Sir, I associate myself with the feelings expressed on the death of Mr. Kuppu Rao. He belonged to the North Arcot district, to which I also belong, and he was returned to the Legislative Council this year as one of the representatives of that district. He was a good practitioner and had an extensive practice both in the city and in the mufassal and I thought that his ripe experience he had gathered of men and matters would stand him in good stead in the Council. His death is indeed a loss to this House and a loss which can be said to be an irreparable one. Mr. Kuppu Rao was a man of very sound views, was catholic in his views and cosmopolitan in his behaviour towards others. I therefore wish to join in the expression of sympathy with his bereaved family, and support the resolution for the acceptance of the House."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is—

'That an expression of the sincere regret of this Council at the death of Mr. V. N. Kuppu Rao, M.L.C., and of deep sympathy with his bereaved family be placed on record and conveyed to them'."

11-30 a.m.

The resolution was carried *nem. con.* all the Members of the Council standing.

IV.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Motor Vehicles Act

Test of eye-sight of the applicants for motor-driving licence.

*1 Q.—Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether under the Motor Vehicles Rules the applicants for driving licence are tested by the licensing authority in the Madras City and in the mufassal as to the soundness of eye-sight to read the figures in the number plate at a distance of 30 yards as in England;

(*b*) if the answer to clause (*a*) is in the negative, whether the Government have any objection to prescribe a similar test of eye-sight; and

(*c*) whether licences are issued to learners of motor-driving as in England?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) In the Madras City, applicants who drive for remuneration or hire should, when applying for a driving licence, produce a medical certificate, after examination by the Police Surgeon. Special attention is paid to distant vision. The question of extending this provision to the mufassal is under consideration.

(*c*) Yes.

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know why this wholesome rule is not applied in the case of owners of motor cars who wish to take to self-driving?"

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* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"Because they are all responsible people, and will not take to self-driving unless they are really fit for it."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Does the hon. the Home Member think that it is absolutely necessary that this medical examination should be done only by the Police Surgeon; that is, will it not do if the persons applying for licences get a certificate from qualified medical practitioner?"

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"I think it is better that these certificates are issued by a responsible officer of the City Police."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know what distinction there is between a certificate issued by a medical officer and that issued by a Police Surgeon?"

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"I have nothing to add to what I have already said."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I know whether the hon. the Home Member is aware of the fact that a memorial has been submitted by members belonging to the Motor Drivers' Association relating to the issue of medical certificates by the Police Surgeon?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"I think a memorial has been received to that effect."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether a Police Surgeon is an eye-specialist?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"He has enough knowledge to issue certificates."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"Is a Police Surgeon an expert mechanic?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"It is not necessary that he should be an expert mechanic."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"In consideration of the fact that in the City of Madras there are a number of qualified medical surgeons available, do not Government consider it sufficient if the medical certificates are issued by such men instead of by the Police Surgeon?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"Government do not think so."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know the test that the Police Surgeon sets for the examination of the eye-sight of persons applying for licences for driving a motor car?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"It is too technical a matter for me to reply."

Jails

Alleged lathi charge on some prisoners at the Cannanore Central Jail.

*2 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a lathi charge was made on political prisoners at the Cannanore Central Jail in September and, if so, for what reasons; and